

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-2 and 4 and CANCEL claims 3 and 5 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A distribution device in a rice huller, wherein

    said rice huller includes a hulling section which hulls un-hulled rice as raw material, wind sorting section arranged underneath said hulling section, and a hulled rice distribution device disposed between said hulling section and wind sorting section,

    said distribution device comprising:

        a distribution gutter configured to receive hulled rice falling from said hulling section and in which a plurality of hulled rice falling-through holes are formed;

        a downflow gutter that is linked to a first upper end edge of said distribution gutter and guides hulled rice from said hulling section to a substantially central part of the distribution gutter in the lengthwise direction;

        a screw that is disposed inside said distribution gutter and conveys hulled rice having flowed into the distribution gutter in the lengthwise direction of the distribution gutter; and

        a falling rice control plate configured to block and open at least some of said hulled rice falling-through holes formed in said distribution gutter, wherein

            a part of the hulled rice that failed to fall through said hulled rice falling-through holes, out of the hulled rice that has flowed into said distribution gutter, in the process of being conveyed by said screw, is caused to overflow a second upper end edge of the distribution gutter on the side opposite the first upper end edge linked to said downflow gutter, and

the second upper edge of the distribution gutter includes a recessed part that is formed in a part of the second upper edge that is substantially immediately underneath said hulling section, and an overflowing rice control plate is disposed in a position corresponding to the recessed part so as to be shiftable between a state in which said recessed part is blocked and a state in which said recessed part is opened, thereby controlling the quantity of hulled rice overflowing the distribution gutter through said recessed part.

2. (Currently Amended) The hulled rice distribution device in the rice huller according to claim 1, wherein the second upper end edge of said distribution gutter which hulled rice is to overflow is so inclined as to increase in height in at the part substantially immediately underneath said hulling section and to become gradually lower with an increase in distance from that the heightened part in the lengthwise direction of the distribution gutter.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The hulled rice distribution device in the rice huller according to claim 31, wherein said falling rice control plate and said overflowing rice control plate are fitted to a first shaft and a second shaft concentric therewith, the first and second shafts being rotatably supported independent of each other by a machine frame of the rice huller, the rotation of the first and second shafts being capable of manipulation from outside the machine frame.

5. (Cancelled)